

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-8, 10-16, 18-20, 22-35, 37-40, 43, and 45-47, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. The allowance of claims 1, 7-8, 10-16, and 18-20 is noted with appreciation. Thus, claims 22-35, 37-40, 43 and 45-47 have been rejoined. Certain claims have been amended as noted herein to address the section 112 rejections. As no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, they all should be entered at this time to reduce the issues for appeal, in particular, by placing all claims in condition for allowance.

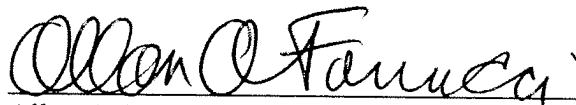
Claims 31, 34-36, 39, 40, 43 and 45-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing comply with the written description requirement. In response, claims 31 and 47 have been amended to recite the features that result in the formation of the carriers of claims 1 and 45. Claim 45 was also amended to change the preamble. Regarding support for the fillers and nutrients of lines 8 and 9 of claim 45, the Examiner is respectfully invited to review the last full paragraph on page 5 and first full paragraph of page 12 of the specification, which disclose the nutrients and fillers. Additionally, claims 36 and 48 were cancelled to overcome the objection of those claims. Thus, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 23, 31, 34-36, 39, 40, 43 and 45-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, applicants have amended claims 22, 23 and 46 as suggested in the action and as noted above. In addition, the amendments made above to claims 31, 45 and 47 and the cancellation of claims 36 and 48 overcome this rejection as well.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all current rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30,256)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

CUSTOMER NO. 28765

(212) 294-3311